

Message Text

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11

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 SS-15 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05

OES-06 OMB-01 /071 W

----- 091738

R 112045Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1355

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 7280

FOR S/NM

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, PE

SUBJECT: PERU AS POSSIBLE FUTURE OPIUM SOURCE COUNTRY

REF: STATE 173247

1. PERU DOES HAVE THE POTENTIAL FOR BECOMING A FUTURE OPIUM SOURCE COUNTRY. AS REPORTED IN THE MISSION'S 1976 NARCOTICS CONTROL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, PEASANTS IN THE INTERIOR OF PERU HAVE BEGUN TO PLANT OPIUM POPPIES IN VIRTUALLY INACCESSIBLE VALLEYS ON THE EASTERN SLOPE OF THE ANDES WHERE SOIL AND CLIMATE ARE SUITABLE. THIS PRODUCTION IS PRESUMABLY FOR EXPORT ACROSS THE BORDER TO ECUADOR AND OTHER POINTS NORTH.

2. THE LEVEL OF PERUVIAN SOPHISTICATION IN MORPHINE AND HEROIN PROCESSING TECHNIQUES REMAINS VERY LOW, AND THE PRESENT VOLUME OF PRODUCTION APPEARS TO BE MINIMAL. IT IS ILLEGAL TO CULTIVATE OPIUM POPPIES IN PERU, AND THE PERUVIAN INVESTIGATIONS POLICE (PIP) DOES INCLUDE OPIUM IN ITS OVERALL SCHEME OF INTERDICTION EFFORTS. SEIZURES AVERAGE LESS THAN TWO KILOGRAMS OF
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OPIUM A YEAR.

3. THE DIFFICULTY OF TRAVEL AND COMMUNICATION IN THE
INTERIOR MAKES IT VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE WITH CURRENT
PIP RESOURCES TO POLICE THE AREAS MOST LIKELY TO BE
CULTIVATED.

SMITH

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, OPIUM, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), FIELD CROPS, POLICE INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LIMA07280
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760309-1302
From: LIMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760865/aaaacepi.tel
Line Count: 67
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 173247
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 JUL 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <20 JUL 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PERU AS POSSIBLE FUTURE OPIUM SOURCE COUNTRY
TAGS: SNAR, PE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006